



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor Martin O'Malley Looks Forward to Eating North Dakota Pasta once Towson Beats North Dakota State in FCS Championship Game

January 3rd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley made a friendly wager with Governor Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota on the outcome of Saturday's FCS Championship game between the Towson University Tigers and the Bison of North Dakota State University.

Governor Dalrymple and Governor O'Malley have each wagered a dish from their home state as part of the friendly contest. When Towson University returns to Maryland victorious, Governor Dalrymple will send a case of North Dakota-made Dreamfields low-carb pasta to Annapolis. In the highly unlikely event of an NDSU victory, Governor O'Malley will send Faidley's crab cakes to Bismarck.

"There's nothing more delicious than Maryland crab cakes, and the award-winning ones from Faidley's are among the best. I would really hate to part with them, but I know I won't have to, because the Towson Tigers are going to win on Saturday," said Governor O'Malley. "Regardless of the outcome, this game is an excellent opportunity to highlight our great State and the universities in it. On behalf of our State, we wish the Towson Tigers, coach Rob Ambrose — and everyone associated with the NDSU Bison — the best of luck on Saturday. And Governor Dalrymple, we look forward to enjoying pasta for dinner soon."

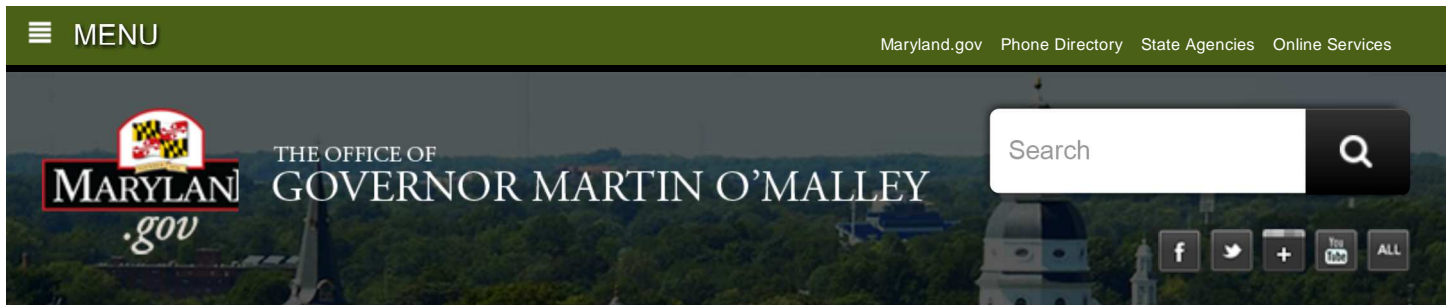
"What the Bison have accomplished this year is very impressive and returning for their third national title game makes it even more special," Dalrymple said. "In friendly wagers with the governors of Minnesota, Texas and South Dakota the Bison have always come out on top and I'm looking forward to another victory and Gov. O'Malley's fresh crab cakes."

The FCS Championship Game is scheduled to take place at 2:00 PM EST on Saturday, January 4, 2014, in Frisco, Texas.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Urges Maryland Residents to Remain Vigilant During Periods of Extremely Cold Temperatures

January 6th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley advises residents to take appropriate safety precautions as some of the coldest temperatures in 20 years approach Maryland. Temperatures are expected to dip to near or just below zero in central Maryland, with lows as cold as 15 below zero in the western portion of the state. Temperatures will be slightly warmer in southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore but wind chills are expected to drop temperatures dangerously low across most of the state for isolated periods.

"The brutal cold that's coming our way can be dangerous, and Marylanders need to be vigilant and prepared," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "After just a few minutes in weather like this, hypothermia can set in and exposed skin can suffer from frostbite. I urge everyone in Maryland to exercise caution, limit their activities outdoors, wear loose layers and cover all exposed skin if venturing outside is unavoidable."

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has been monitoring the weather forecast for several days and has been in touch with the four National Weather Service offices serving the state as well as local emergency management offices. MEMA and other state agencies are closely monitoring conditions to support local efforts in case additional shelters and/or heating centers need to be opened.

Here are some tips for dealing with the upcoming cold snap:

- Wear layers of clothing that can be easily removed if you become overheated, and make sure to use socks, hats and scarves to protect feet, head and exposed skin.
- Be sure to stay hydrated in the low-humidity conditions, but avoid drinking beverages with alcohol and too much caffeine.
- Make sure your car's radiator and windshield washer fluid tanks are full and watch for black ice when driving.
- In addition to normal supplies in your car, keep some extra blankets and snacks, such as energy bars, available in case you become stranded.
- If you are travelling, make sure people know when you are expected to arrive and what route you plan to take and make sure you have a fully charged cell phone.
- Consider SAFE alternative heating methods in case you lose power, or see if friends or relatives can provide a place to stay. Avoid using heaters with open flames or heating methods that produce carbon monoxide gas.
- Limit the time pets stay outdoors in these conditions, including pets that normally live outside. If they must remain outside, please make sure they have a dog house or some other type of shelter available and plenty of non-frozen water to drink.

(Avoid leaving blankets outside for pets to sleep on in the winter as they may become wet and icy.)

- If some of your pipes are susceptible to freezing, leave a trickle of cold water running from the sink on the lowest level of your home. If possible, insulate pipes.
- Keep cell phones, tablets and other portable devices fully charged in case you lose power.

"If you have any relatives, friends or neighbors who may not have adequate heat, please check on their welfare during these next few days," said MEMA Executive Director Ken Mallette. "If you have the ability, help them get to someplace warm or contact local social service providers on their behalf."

Tune in to your local news and radio stations for the most up-to-date information in your jurisdiction. Be sure to follow MEMA and local officials on Facebook, Twitter, and regularly check websites for updates. Marylanders are encouraged to call [211](#) or their [local city or county governments](#) for information on local shelters and warming centers. MEMA will also update their [website](#) with shelter hours and locations as they become available.

The following links may also be of use:

<http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/emergencies-WinterStorms.aspx#duringtips>

<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/WinterWeather/index.html>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>

http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm?campname=getprepared&campmedium=aspot_dis12

Social Media links for MEMA:

<https://www.facebook.com/MDMEMA>

<https://twitter.com/MDMEMA>

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor Martin O'Malley Looks Forward to Eating North Dakota Pasta once Towson Beats North Dakota State in FCS Championship Game](#)
[Governor O'Malley Issues Statement Regarding the Death of Bishop Lee Robinson](#)

»

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Issues Statement Regarding the Death of Bishop Lee Robinson

January 6th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Tonight, Governor O'Malley issued the following statement upon learning of the death of Bishop Lee Robinson, Baltimore city's first black police commissioner, and former state secretary of public safety and juvenile justice:

"On behalf a very grateful State, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family of Bishop Lee Robinson. Over the course of his 50-year law enforcement career, Secretary Robinson gave back ceaselessly to our city and our State. From the halls of the State house in Annapolis, to the offices of our State's top public safety agencies to the classrooms of the University of Baltimore, Mr. Robinson's perseverance and grit inspired many. Tonight, our city grieves the loss one of her staunchest guardians and our State mourns the loss of one its most dedicated servants."

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Urges Maryland Residents to Remain Vigilant During Periods of Extremely Cold Temperatures](#)
[Governor O'Malley and Carroll County Officials Announce Opening, Expansion of Custom Clothier Facilities](#) »



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley and Carroll County Officials Announce Opening, Expansion of Custom Clothier Facilities

January 7th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley, along with Carroll County Economic Development officials, today announced the opening of a new Carlisle Etcetera LLC national distribution center and the expansion of English American Tailoring Company in Westminster. Both companies are part of the Tom James Company – the world's largest manufacturer and retailer of custom clothing. Relocating from New York, Carlisle Etcetera has purchased the former Marada building at 1200 Independence Way and is establishing a facility for women's apparel. The English American Tailoring Company is planning to retain its current operations and 380 full-time employees in Westminster and expand its custom men's apparel facility. As part of the new facility and expansion, the companies plan to add an additional 75 employees over the next five years.

"The continued investment in Maryland and Carroll County by the Tom James Company sends a strong message that we have the kind of highly-skilled workforce, supportive business climate and strategic location that world-class companies need to grow," said Governor O'Malley. "This success has not happened by accident, but because of the strategic choices we're making together to build a strong, growing and resilient economy."

Dave Roush, President of the Board of Carroll County Commissioners, supported the project. "This is a great example of why the retention of resident industries is so important," he said. "In Carroll County we put a great emphasis on nurturing our local companies so they are positioned to grow and expand right here."

"A significant part of our decision to relocate our national distribution center from Long Island City, New York to Westminster was the assistance provided by the State of Maryland and Carroll County Economic Development, which is helping us to hire and train new employees at the center," said Jim Brubaker, CEO of Carlisle Etcetera. "Westminster has been a great place for Tom James to make high-end custom clothes for over 30 years. Our new women's facility plus the expansion of the Tom James English American factory further anchors Tom James' commitment to Westminster and the State of Maryland as a great place to do business."

As part of the project, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) has approved a \$250,000 conditional loan based on job creation and retention and capital expenditure. In addition, Carroll County has approved a \$30,000 job training grant to assist in training new employees.

Headquartered in New York, Carlisle is a high-end fashion company that produces

couture dresses, suits, separates, and accessories with a sense of classic style that is modern yet appropriate for any professional or social occasion. It was founded in 1981 and acquired in 2012 by Tom James Company and Royal Spirit Limited of Hong Kong. Founded more than 100 years ago, the English American Tailoring Company manufactures high quality men's garments.

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.

Share this:

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Issues Statement Regarding the Death of Bishop Lee Robinson](#)
[Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce Health Care Reform Initiative that will Improve Health and Reduce Costs](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce Health Care Reform Initiative that will Improve Health and Reduce Costs

January 10th, 2014

BALTIMORE – Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown today joined Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Sen. Ben Cardin and senior officials from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to announce a groundbreaking new system of health care delivery that could serve as a nationwide model. The initiative to modernize Maryland's unique all-payer rate-setting system for hospital services will improve patient health and reduce health care costs. The agreement will allow the state to adopt new policies that reduce per capita hospital expenditures and improve health outcomes as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act.

"We need to shift away from our near exclusive focus on treating illness, and move to a balanced approach that encourages prevention and wellness," Gov. O'Malley said. "Such a shift will reduce costs for families and small businesses and will simultaneously keep many Americans from dying of preventable causes."

"By incentivizing hospitals to improve services and reduce the costs of providing care, we're making Maryland a better, healthier place for all of our families," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown. "By modernizing the nation's first all-payer hospital system, we're continuing our commitment to develop new and innovative solutions to our persistent health challenges."

Under Maryland's current Medicare waiver, Maryland has set its own rates for hospital services for 36 years. Maryland is the only state in the nation to operate an all-payer hospital rate setting system, under which all patients pay the same rate for services at the state's hospitals. The new model will allow Maryland to set global budgets and other alternative approaches to payment that reward systems of care that provide improved outcomes at lower cost. Support for this new model has come from a coalition of the hospitals, the insurance companies, the state and CMS all working together with a common vision.

"Today is a great day for Maryland patients, hospitals, insurers, and tax-payers," Senator Mikulski said. "This new initiative – developed by the state and approved by the federal government – will modernize Maryland's unique 'all-payer system,' allowing our state to continue pioneering work to reduce health costs, improve quality of care, ensure access to care for all in need, and serve as a model for the nation. As someone who is so proud to have worked on developing the original waiver, today is an exciting day."

"For nearly four decades, Maryland's unique system has been a model for patient access, cost containment, and financial stability, providing more equitable payment levels among payers than anywhere else in the nation," said Senator Cardin. "The revised Medicare waiver will allow us to continue our state's commitment to increasing quality and reducing health care costs, while giving the federal government the opportunity to evaluate innovative approaches to reform."

"Maryland's unique approach to health care delivery has always emphasized increasing quality and reducing health care costs," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "The modernization of our waiver builds on that commitment, and allows Maryland to continue focusing on developing new, innovative approaches to improving patient outcomes, containing costs, and increasing both the efficiency and quality of our health care delivery system."

Under the new model, Maryland's hospitals have committed to achieving significant quality improvements, including reductions in hospital readmission rates and hospital acquired conditions rates. The model will limit the growth in hospital spending per capita, including inpatient and outpatient care, to growth in the state's economy. It will also limit annual Medicare per capita hospital cost growth to a rate lower than the national annual per capita growth rate. The model is expected to save the federal government at least \$330 million in Medicare spending over the next five years.

"By shifting away from traditional fee-for-service payment, Maryland's new model encourages collaboration between hospitals and physicians to improve patient care, promotes innovative approaches to prevention, and accelerates efforts to avoid unnecessary admissions and readmissions," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "We appreciate the support of CMS for creative approaches to addressing the challenges of the health care system."

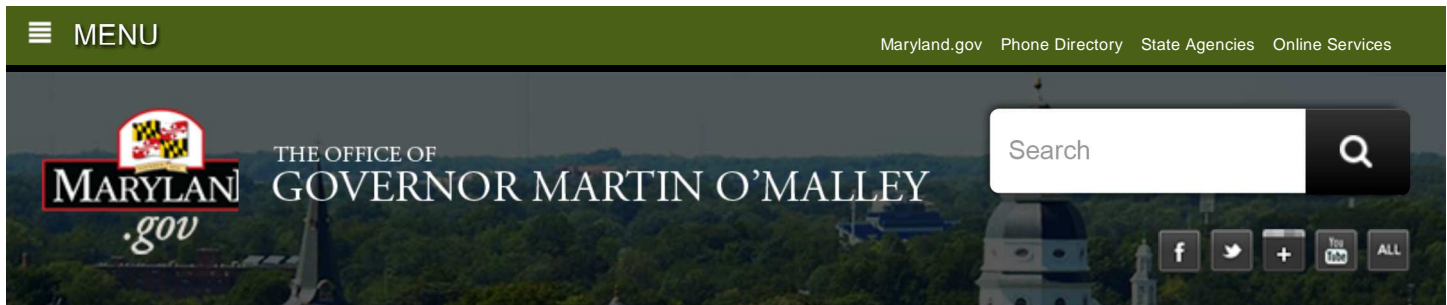
"Today's announcement is an encouraging step to ensure that Maryland's unique health care delivery system can also be aligned with the goals of lowering cost and improving health outcomes for our citizens," said CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner. "We hope that this can serve as an example for other states that they can work with us to achieve the shared goals of creating a more efficient health system that also delivers improved care for the American people."

"For four decades, Maryland's unique system of paying for hospital care, and hospitals' partnership with state officials, the state rate setting commission, insurers, and others, has put Maryland at the forefront of innovation and equity," said Maryland Hospital Association President & CEO Carmela Coyle. "We appreciate the Administration's leadership in preserving this unique system for the future, and we look forward to an even closer collaboration with the state and our patients and communities as we embark upon a path that promises lower costs, higher quality, and a healthier Maryland."

The new model will complement a number of steps Maryland has taken in recent years to improve our health care system. The State has built an electronic platform for medical records, which now connects hospitals across our state with critical patient data. In addition, the State is developing an innovative approach that links community health outreach and planning to primary care. Maryland has also created Health Enterprise Zones to address persistent health disparities in five targeted areas across the state.

For further information, visit <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Medicare%20Waiver%20Modernization.aspx>.

Share this:



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce New Efforts to Assist Marylanders who had Trouble Enrolling Through Website

January 14th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown today announced that an estimated several thousand Marylanders who experienced technical challenges on the health reform website will be able enroll in the private plan of their choice with coverage retroactive to January 1.

Maryland officials have been doing everything they can to (a) get as many Marylanders as possible enrolled in health coverage, and (b) help Marylanders adversely affected by the technological problems the Maryland Health Connection web site has experienced. State officials have been working closely with the private insurance carriers in Maryland, and urging them to offer retroactive coverage back to January 1 for individuals who had difficulties signing up through the website late last year. On Monday, all four insurance carriers participating in the state-based exchange — CareFirst, Evergreen Co-op, Kaiser Permanente, and United — agreed to make retroactive coverage available.

"We encouraged the carriers to make this program available because we want as many Marylanders as possible to enroll in health coverage, and because we want to provide whatever assistance we can to individuals and families who had difficulty using the web site," Gov. O'Malley said.

"We are 100% focused on making health care available to more Marylanders," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown. "By working with the carriers to establish retroactive coverage and passing MHIP legislation to provide a bridge for those who need care the most, we're making a positive difference in the lives of Marylanders across our State."

Starting today, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange will reach out to consumers with known issues in their applications prior to January 1, and offer them an opportunity to register with the program. Other Marylanders who experienced significant website problems that prevented enrollment and are interested in coverage back to January 1, should call the Consumer Support Center to be considered for the program.

The carriers set a deadline of 5 pm on January 21, 2014 to enroll in the program. Therefore, anyone wishing to enroll in the program must do so before that deadline.

Anyone with questions about enrolling, or who wishes to enroll, should call the Consumer Support Center at [1-855-642-8572](tel:1-855-642-8572). Staff from the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange will reach out to program participants to confirm eligibility and record plan selection. Coverage will be effective once consumers pay their January and February

premiums — the deadline for paying is February 15, 2014. Consumers will then be able to submit bills for medical services received back to January 1 for reimbursement under the terms of their policy.

"We share the State's interest in getting as many Marylanders as possible enrolled in health coverage for 2014," said CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield President and CEO Chet Burrell. "It's part of our mission to support programs that increase access to health care and this step certainly does just that."

The new option is expected to significantly reduce the number of Maryland residents who might need to take advantage of the proposed option of joining the Maryland Health Insurance Program. Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown remain committed to their legislative proposal, so that MHIP can continue to serve as a safety net of last resort.

Summary:

Deadline to REGISTER for the program: January 21

Deadline to PAY January and February premiums: February 15

To ask questions or to enroll: Call the Consumer Support Center at [1-855-642-8572](tel:1-855-642-8572)

In addition, after evaluating the feasibility of using certain back-end functions of the federal marketplace, the Governor and Lt. Governor have decided that during the remaining months of open enrollment, the risks associated with a transition to the federal site would outweigh the benefits. The IT team and the vendors working on the project will continue the ongoing efforts to fix the remaining technical issues so that more Marylanders can enroll in coverage during the open enrollment period that ends March 31, 2014.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Raise the Wage Rally](#)

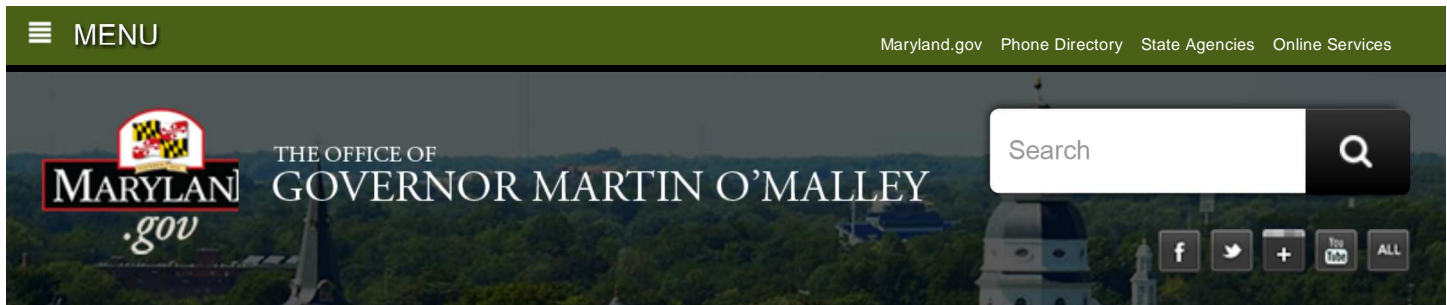
[Governor O'Malley Introduces Balanced Budget Focused on Jobs](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Introduces Balanced Budget Focused on Jobs

January 15th, 2014

Spending proposal closes half billion dollar shortfall with no new taxes or fee increases; continues strategic investments in education, health, public safety and sustainability

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown today released the FY 15 budget, a fiscally-responsible, jobs-focused spending plan for Maryland. Click [here](#) for the complete set of budget documents.

The Administration's balanced budget proposal:

- cuts \$457 million this year, bringing **total cuts to \$9.1 billion since 2007**;
- closes the projected \$584 million revenue shortfall with **no tax increases or fee increases**;
- makes more progress towards eliminating the \$1.7 billion structural deficit that Gov. O'Malley inherited in 2007, and **puts Maryland on track to totally eliminate that structural deficit by 2017**; and,
- ensures there is **\$800 million in the Rainy Day Fund** (5% of the General Fund balance), and leaves a \$37 million fund balance.

These actions secure Maryland's status as **one of only 7 states that maintained a AAA bond rating** from all three ratings agencies during the global recession.

"This jobs budget puts us on the path to eliminating our inherited structural deficit by 2017, with no tax or fee increases," **said Governor O'Malley**. "This fiscally-responsible budget builds on the tremendous progress we've made as a State, strengthening our economy by supporting 48,000 jobs, protecting our #1 in the nation schools with record investments in education, and upgrading our transportation infrastructure with modern investments."

"Over the past eight years, Maryland has made great strides in building a stronger economy, creating jobs and growing the middle-class," **said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown**. "This budget makes the right choices by investing in our schools, including expanding pre-k, improving public safety and continuing our work to expand access to quality health care for all Marylanders while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

A Fiscally-Responsible Approach:

The proposal, as submitted, successfully eliminates the projected \$584 million decline in revenues in the FY14 and FY15 budgets. Budget balancing actions in the FY 15 budget amount to \$621 million, with \$457 million in spending reductions and no taxes or fee increases. Almost three quarters (74 percent) of the solution to the budget gap is cuts to planned spending. The budget proposed today secures cash reserves for the State with a \$37 million general fund balance and another \$800 million in the State's Rainy Day Fund.

The proposed budget brings total cuts to State spending to \$9.1 billion dollars since 2007. Additionally, budget growth is held to the lowest levels in a generation, and the size of the executive branch is reduced to 1973 levels. In fact, this is the 8th consecutive budget submitted in compliance with Spending Affordability Guidelines set by the Maryland General Assembly.

Jobs-Focused, Modern Investment:

The Administration balanced spending cuts in the FY15 budget with strategic investments in education, infrastructure, and innovation, creating jobs and positioning Maryland to compete and win in the 21st century global economy.

Maryland is among 17 states to recover more than 100 percent of the jobs lost during the recession with over 34,000 jobs created in 2013. And while there are significant spending limits, this is a jobs budget – accelerating investments in innovation sectors like clean tech, green tech, biotech and life sciences, cyber and basic R&D. This budget supports 48,000 new jobs to modernize infrastructure by replacing and repairing aging schools, roads, bridges, and highways.

Our Shared Priorities:

By taking a balanced approach to fiscal responsibility, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made better choices to protect our shared priorities of stronger schools, quality affordable health care for more Marylanders, safe neighborhoods and communities for Maryland families and a cleaner, more sustainable environmental future for Maryland:

Investing in Education

- The FY 15 budget builds on Maryland's #1 school ranking and paves the way to global competitiveness for our children. Funding for public school construction totals \$286 million, bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration average annual investment to the highest ever at \$345 million.
- The FY 15 budget also includes \$4.3 million in new funding to expand pre-kindergarten opportunities for Maryland children, bringing total funding for public schools to a record \$6.1 billion (an increase of 37% as compared to FY07).
- Since 2007, Maryland has done more than any other state in the nation to hold down the cost of college. This year will continue that trend with a 6.4% increase in funding for the university system, and a cap on the University System of Maryland's tuition increase at 3%, including a freeze at Morgan State University and St. Mary's College. Gov. O'Malley is also investing \$297.5 million in community colleges (including a 4.9% increase in direct aid).

Commitment to the Public's Safety

- Investments in security enhancements; upgraded camera and video recording equipment; and K-9 units for contraband at correctional facilities.
- Record police aid for local jurisdictions.

- Implementation of modernization plans for the State Police vehicle fleet.

Sustainability

- Record funding for the Bay 2010 Trust Fund non-point source projects, and an additional \$25 million in capital funding for Trust Fund projects addressing stormwater events.
- Fully funding the cover crop program and an additional \$ 9.1 million for oyster restoration; and,
- Over \$100 million in enhancements to wastewater treatment plants.

Health Families, Stronger Communities

- FY15 budget provides insurance for more than one million people, expanding access to more than 500,000 more Marylanders since 2007.
- Investments to support more than 700 placements for developmentally disabled individuals; and,
- Highest level of funding during the O'Malley Brown Administration for cancer-research through Academic Health Centers.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

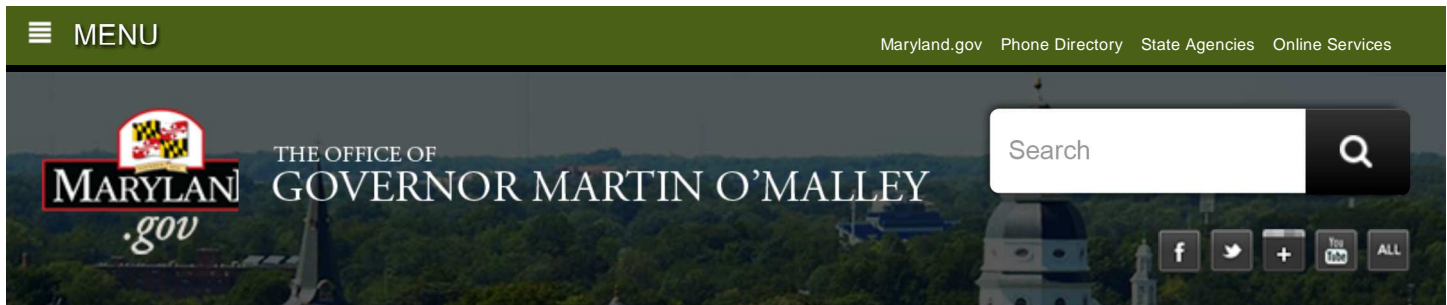
« [Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce New Efforts to Assist Marylanders who had Trouble Enrolling Through Website](#)
[Natural Resources Police: Protecting and Preserving the Waters we Love](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

O'Malley-Brown Administration Announces Prison Integrity and Security Agenda

January 17th, 2014

Administration allocates millions in funding and introduces legislative initiatives to combat gangs, contraband, and corruption

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Through his budget and legislative agenda, Governor O'Malley today underscored his commitment to improving safety and security in the State's correctional facilities by combatting the introduction of contraband, enhancing investigatory capacity, and rooting out corruption.

"We're continuing our efforts to promote integrity and strengthen security at Maryland correctional institutions," said Governor O'Malley. "The agenda we've laid out will root out corruption, combat contraband, and promote a safer, more secure correctional system across Maryland."

Implementing Security Reforms and Enhancing Safety at Correctional Facilities

Enhancing the integrity and safety of Maryland's correctional and detention facilities is a top priority of the O'Malley Brown Administration. The Administration's FY 2015 budget invests in the following:

- **Increasing institutional staffing levels and reducing overtime:** \$4.1 million for 100 additional correctional officers in this year's budget, as well as \$637,000 for one year of a multi-year in-service correctional officer training program to enhance officer safety.
- **Upgrading cameras and video recording systems at correctional facilities and youth centers:** Establishing a security and camera system technology fund to replace and upgrade cameras at institutions statewide. The Governor is providing \$788,000 in this year's budget and \$1.1 million in deficiencies in last year's budget. Increased surveillance significantly improves officer, staff, and inmate safety.
- **Bolstering intelligence gathering efforts:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (the Department) has bolstered the Internal Investigative Unit (IIU) by adding 12 new positions (eight new detectives, four new intelligence analysts). The expansion includes funding for a million-dollar deficiency in last year's budget.
- **Targeting drugs, cell phones and other contraband through K9 expansion:** The Governor put \$563,000 in the FY15 budget to expand the K9 unit by seven positions to improve the detection of contraband such as drugs and cell phones.

- **Expanding Anti-Contraband Technology:** Investing \$7.2 million in this year's budget and a \$4.2 million deficiency in last year's budget to install two more managed access systems in Baltimore City that render contraband cell phones inoperable.
- **Developing the Department's first ever polygraph unit:** Investing nearly \$600,000 in order to polygraph all correctional officer applicants. This includes funding for the following items: (1) a new polygraph unit (\$347,000 deficiency in last year's budget); (2) enhancing centralized hiring (\$61,000 in this year's budget); and (3) enhancing employee relations units (\$182,000 deficiency in last year's budget).
- **Implementing keyword recognition software:** The Governor is providing \$125,000 in this year's budget and \$375,000 deficiency in last year's budget for software that allows for targeted intelligence gathering.
- **Expanding correctional officer presence:** The Governor and the Department are ensuring adequate coverage of posts throughout state facilities by providing \$6 million in this year's budget and a \$9 million deficiency in last year's budget.

Legislative Agenda

- **SB113 – Combatting Illegal Cell Phones in Prisons:** Legislation to combat introduction and/or possession of illegal cell phones in prisons by making it a felony to deliver or attempt to deliver a telecommunications device by enhancing fines and penalties and making it a felony.
- **SB114 – Streamlining Intelligence:** Legislation that unifies intelligence gathering and internal investigations and creates the newly named Intelligence and Investigative Division at the Department.
- **SB126 – Ensuring the Integrity of Personnel:** Legislation that puts the Department on par with other law enforcement agencies and eight local detention centers by exempting the Department from the State's anti-polygraph law.
- **Improving the Correctional Officers' Bill of Rights (COBR):** Legislation that allows IIU to bring disciplinary charges against a correctional officer if a criminal investigation takes longer than 90 days. The legislation will also exempt probationary officers from the protections of COBR and from being eligible to serve on hearing boards.

History: Swift and Decisive Action Taken Immediately Following Indictments

- Following the indictments, the Department installed new leadership at the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), including a new Jail Administrator, Assistant Jail Administrator and Security Chief.
- The Department upgraded security cameras at BCDC to provide 45 hours of recording capability.
- The Administration established the City Corrections Investigative Unit (CCIU) to continue investigating and prosecuting gang activity and corrupt staff in Baltimore correctional facilities. The unit is comprised of Department officials, members of the Maryland State Police, and Baltimore City's State's Attorney's Office prosecutors. CCIU has indicted 31 individuals, seven of whom are corrections officers. Four of the 31 individuals, who are not correctional officers, have already been convicted and sentenced.
- The Department established front entrance search teams and implemented new procedures for rotation, which require teams to be rotated every 30 days between eight facilities.
- The Department unified the IIU and the intelligence division to enhance coordination and streamline intelligence gathering.

- In order to sever physical gang ties and prevent future gang activity, the Department transferred more than 30 high-risk detainees. The transfer of high-risk detainees will continue in the future.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Natural Resources Police: Protecting and Preserving the Waters we Love](#)
[Governor O'Malley Proposes Raising Maryland's Minimum Wage to \\$10.10](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Proposes Raising Maryland's Minimum Wage to \$10.10

January 20th, 2014

Legislative package also expands access to early childhood education; addresses ballooning health care costs; and supports job growth through innovation

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today released details of the Administration's 2014 legislative agenda, focused on boosting efforts to grow the economy from the middle out, create more jobs, support our nation-leading innovation firms, and better prepare our children to compete in the 21st century global economy.

"We're going to forge consensus and increase the minimum wage — when workers earn more money, businesses will have more customers, and we'll grow Maryland's economy from the middle out," **Gov. O'Malley said**. "Thanks to the leadership of the General Assembly over the last seven years, we've made better choices and achieved better results for the people of Maryland; we're going to continue making progress this year."

"Under the Governor's leadership, we've made great progress for Maryland families," **said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "This year, I look forward to working with the General Assembly to expand access to high quality pre-k to approximately 1,600 more Maryland children while strengthening protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's legislative package builds on both the investments announced in the FY15 budget, and the better results achieved over the last seven years with proposals centered around key priority areas including:

JOBS/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/WORKFORCE TRAINING

The Governor plans to champion hard-working Maryland families with legislation to raise the State's minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016. The legislation secures purchasing power for workers by indexing the rate to inflation beginning in the year 2017, while also strengthening current law with an increase of the cash wage rate for tipped workers from 50 percent to at least 70 percent of the minimum wage. If passed, the increase will benefit 472,000 Maryland workers according to analysis from the National Employment Law Project.

EDUCATION

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown reaffirmed their commitment to Maryland's top ranked schools with the introduction of a bill to expand early childhood education.

The bill represents the first step toward expanding pre-kindergarten to all Maryland

children by establishing a competitive Pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant Program and Fund through which local school systems and local providers can apply to expand and enhance existing pre-kindergarten programs. The Administration's FY15 budget invests \$4.3 million to fund the Program, which is expected to support half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten programs for approximately 1,600 children across the State.

The Administration's proposal would build on the State's existing system of Pre-K by expanding the number of Pre-K slots available to include Maryland children whose families make between 185 percent and 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, which was [\\$70,650 for a family of four in 2013](#). In addition, the bill lays the foundation for expanding access by ensuring that the State's long-term plan for education funding takes into account providing access to pre-kindergarten for all Maryland children.

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Governor is proposing legislation to promote a more sustainable future by designating new wildland areas on state lands including State Parks, State Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. By expanding the number of designated wildland areas in the State, the bill will ensure the protection and preservation of Maryland's unique wilderness character for present and future residents of the State, while encouraging ecotourism to stimulate local economies. Learn more about the Maryland Wildlands Preservation System here: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/wildland.asp>.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Governor O'Malley will seek to codify several elements of a 2008 Executive Order establishing the Maryland Statewide Communications Interoperability Program, an effort to strengthen public safety radio communications throughout the State. The legislation creates a Board to oversee the final development, operations and management of this program and advances the State's efforts to create a unified public safety communications network for first responders to better communicate during emergency and extreme weather events.

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown will continue to lead the effort to protect Maryland families and build stronger communities by advocating for three pieces of legislation to protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Working with advocates and leaders in the General Assembly, one bill to end Maryland's dubious distinction of being the only State in the nation whose standard of proof to obtain a final peace or protective order is "clear and convincing evidence" to a "preponderance of evidence." Another bill will add 2nd degree assault to the list of crimes for which domestic violence victims can obtain a final permanent protective order and lastly, the third bill gives judges the ability to impose an enhanced penalty for violent crimes when they are committed in the presence of a minor.

Last week, the administration announced its prison integrity and security agenda, which focuses on combatting the introduction of contraband, enhancing investigatory capacity, and rooting out corruption. Click here to see the full agenda: <http://governor.maryland.gov/documents/PrisonIntegrityAndSecurityAgenda.pdf>.

HEALTH

Maryland recently introduced a health care reform proposal that will reduce healthcare costs for Maryland families by getting away from the "fee-for-service" model and incentivizes health care providers to focus on wellness. To support the establishment of Maryland's new modernized all-payer model — which received approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently — the bill introduced today makes

several statutory changes. The new model will transition health care in Maryland from a system that bases control of cost on a per inpatient admission to a system that spurs better health outcomes, while encouraging hospitals to help reduce the cost of care.

The Administration's package also includes legislation to provide a bridge to care through the extension of the MHIP program to vulnerable Marylanders. This plan provides an additional safety net to individuals who attempted to enroll in the exchange and who through no fault of their own, are without insurance and facing potentially costly medical bills.

For more information on the O'Malley-Brown Administration's priorities, click [here](#).

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [O'Malley-Brown Administration Announces Prison Integrity and Security Agenda](#)
[Realizing the Dream](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Venture Fund Investment

January 21st, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that Tales2Go, a leading provider of streaming audiobooks, has moved to Maryland from Washington D.C. and received a \$150,000 investment from the Maryland Venture Fund ("MVF"), through its *InvestMaryland* program. The company, now located in Bethesda, is a Netflix-like subscription service that streams thousands of titles from popular publishers to early childhood programs and primary schools. The MVF investment is part of a larger fundraising round co-led by NewSchools Venture Fund, a nonprofit venture philanthropy firm that supports entrepreneurs transforming K-12 public education and providing opportunities for underserved students.

"Tales2Go shares Maryland's commitment to innovation, discovery and investment in education and I am proud to welcome this dynamic young company to our State," Governor O'Malley said. "I am confident their industry-leading platform and our wealth of education resources, high-quality workforce and vibrant network of innovators and entrepreneurs will lead to continued growth and success for Tales2Go and for Maryland."

"Funding from NewSchools and the State of Maryland is a game changer for our company. Beyond the obvious benefits of additional finances, NewSchools and the State of Maryland bring important credibility and support to our technology and purpose," said William Weil, CEO and cofounder of Tales2Go. "Audio books are more than a nice library resource, or good for struggling readers. They are an important tool for reading achievement in the classroom and a desired supplement to parents at home."

Tales2Go supports the development of literacy skills during the most critical early childhood and elementary years, when students acquire a foundation of vocabulary and fluency necessary for academic success. Listening skills are given special emphasis within the Common Core State Standards, as literacy experts have long understood that children need to be good listeners in order to become good readers. The Tales2Go service is used differently across ages and grade levels, ranging from individual to group use with or without physical books in hand. The company has seven employees and plans to double its staff by the end of 2015.

Created by Governor O'Malley and passed by the General Assembly in 2011, *InvestMaryland* is the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland's history. The \$84 million program is being administered through the Maryland Venture Fund, the venture arm of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. In March 2012, the State raised \$84 million for the program through an online auction of tax credits to Maryland insurance companies. Two-thirds of the funding

– \$56 million – is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State's general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the state-run Maryland Venture Fund.

The Maryland Venture Fund ("MVF") is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

ABOUT DBED

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. For more information, visit www.ChooseMaryland.org.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Realizing the Dream](#)

[Governor O'Malley Advises Residents to Use Caution as Winter Storm Moves through the Region](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Advises Residents to Use Caution as Winter Storm Moves through the Region

January 21st, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley advises residents to take appropriate safety precautions as moderate to heavy snow showers make their way across Maryland. As road conditions continue to deteriorate, the focus turns to the evening commute.

"It is extremely important that Marylanders take the appropriate safety measures to ensure safe travels during this evening's commute," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "If you do not have to be on the roadways, we encourage you to limit travel. If you must travel in these conditions, keep a family member or friend informed of your route and take a fully charged cellphone."

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has been monitoring the weather forecast all day and has been in touch with the four National Weather Service offices serving the State as well as local emergency management offices. MEMA and other state agencies are closely monitoring conditions to support local efforts.

"We want all Marylanders to be safe during this winter weather. Once the snow showers move out of the area we are expecting very cold temperatures to remain with us" said MEMA Executive Director Ken Mallette. He offers the following tips for dealing with the upcoming cold snap:

- Wear layers of clothing that can be easily removed if you become overheated, and make sure to use socks, hats and scarves to protect feet, head and exposed skin.
- Make sure your car's radiator and windshield washer fluid tanks are full and watch for black ice when driving.
- In addition to normal supplies in your car, keep some extra blankets and snacks, such as energy bars, available in case you become stranded.
- Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Consider SAFE alternative heating methods in case you lose power, or see if friends or relatives can provide a place to stay. Avoid using heaters with open flames or heating methods that produce carbon monoxide gas.
- Limit the time pets stay outdoors in these conditions, including pets that normally live outside. If they must remain outside, please make sure they have a dog house or some other type of shelter available and plenty of non-frozen water to drink. (Avoid leaving blankets outside for pets to sleep on in the winter as they may become wet and icy.)
- If some of your pipes are susceptible to freezing, leave a trickle of cold water

running from the sink on the lowest level of your home. If possible, insulate pipes.

Tune in to your local news and radio stations for the most up-to-date information in your jurisdiction. Be sure to follow MEMA, local officials, and the National Weather Service on Facebook, Twitter, and regularly check websites for updates.

The following links may also be of use:

MEMA: <http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/emergencies-WinterStorms.aspx>

FEMA: <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/WinterWeather/index.html>

National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>

Red Cross: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm?campname=getprepared&campmedium=aspot_dis12

CHART: Interactive Mapping: <http://www.chart.state.md.us/MapNet/MapDOTNET.aspx?Browser=IE7&ViewName=Select&Cmd=switchtheme&tab=VideoAndCamera&DoPanTo=False&Direction=&PanFactor=&DoZoomScaleFactor=&x=&y=&Encoder=×tamp=47921&x1=0&x2=0&y2=0&y1=0&gCenterLat=null&gCenterLon=null&gZoomLvl=null>

Maryland State Highway Administration: <http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Home.aspx>

Social Media links for MEMA:

<https://www.facebook.com/MDMEMA>

<https://twitter.com/MDMEMA>

Share this:



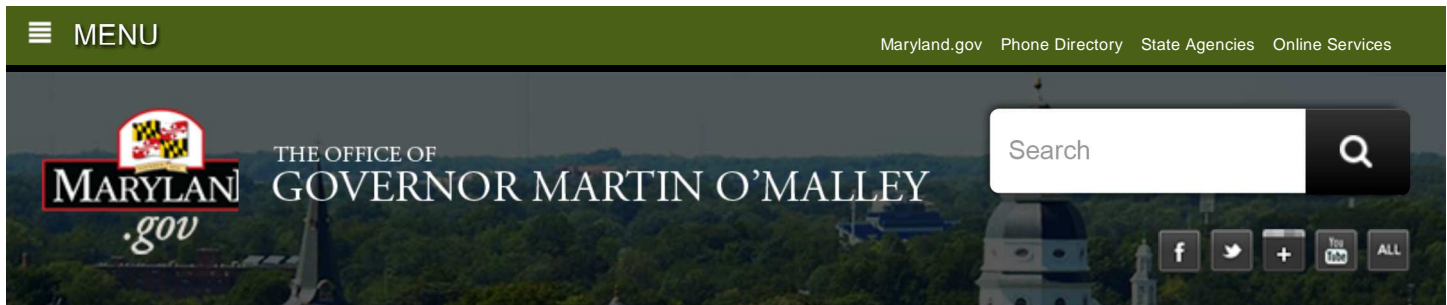
[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Venture Fund Investment](#)
[Governor O'Malley Issues Statement in Response to Zandi Briefing on the State of Maryland's Economy](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401





Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Issues Statement in Response to Zandi Briefing on the State of Maryland's Economy

January 22nd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement in response to a Budget and Tax Committee briefing by Mark Zandi, a former chief economist for U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and current Chief Economist for Moody's Analytics. During the briefing, Zandi provided analysis of the State's economy and necessary actions to address widening income gaps for Maryland families.

On State and local priorities:

"I often counsel State and local government to be more focused on improving more broadly the factors of production: educational attainment of population, infrastructure of state's economy, things that will benefit all industries..."

On infrastructure:

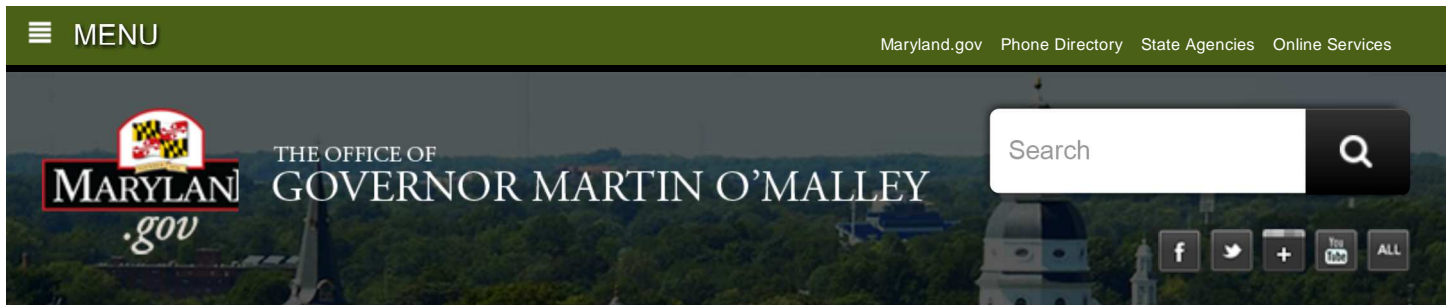
"I'd focus on infrastructure, because that lowers the cost of doing business. It will create more jobs, and it will be very helpful for the economy. If we can't, in a time when we have a 6.7% unemployment rate, and interest rates are at 3%, and we can't invest in infrastructure...when are we going to do it? I mean, come on, this is the time to do it. I think I can put my finger on a map and the road, or the bridge, or the dam, or the airport, or the port that's sitting there...I can give them a dollar and I'll get more than a dollar in return."

Governor O'Malley has this to say in response:

"With the budget introduced to the General Assembly last week, we continued our fiscally-responsible, balanced approach to navigating the effects of the worst recession since the Great depression. Together, we've cut \$9.1 billion in state spending even as we made record investments in K-12 education, held the cost of tuition to the lowest levels in the nation, and called for the largest investment in transportation in modern Maryland history."

"Mr. Zandi's analysis confirms what we already know: because of the better choices we've made as a State, we've paved the way to a stronger 21st century economy. And we're better positioned as a State to raise the minimum wage."

Share this:



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Excerpts From Governor Martin O'Malley's 2014 State of the State Address

January 23rd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Today, Governor O'Malley will deliver his annual State of the State address.

Below are excerpts of the Governor's remarks as prepared for delivery:

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has used the challenge of these times to make our government more efficient, and more effective.

We have cut spending by \$9.1 billion.

We have made more cuts than any administration in modern Maryland history.

Today, we now have the smallest executive branch since 1973—and the budget I presented to you last week, puts us on a track to totally eliminate that structural deficit without the need for any new fees or taxes.

We remain one of only seven states that has maintained a triple-A bond rating all through the recession, and to this day.

We have built up our Rainy Day Fund to \$800 million dollars, and we have placed, this year in our general reserve, an operating surplus of \$37 million dollars.

...

Seven years ago—in response to the desires of our people—we set out to govern in a fundamentally different way.

Setting goals. Measuring performance. Hitting deadlines. Getting Results. Making the work of progress visible for you to see, and for me to see.

Every day, the test of any policy, action, or expenditure, has been whether or not it is actually working—working to produce the intended results.

...

This generation wants its government to be accountable for its action, and accountable for the results we seek.

Today in Maryland, you can go online right now, and see the 16 strategic goals we have set for our State's progress, in the areas of job creation, education, security, sustainability,

and health.

On some of these, we've already exceeded our initial goals. On others, we're making progress. And on a few, we have a longer way to go.

Progress requires accountability.

But accountability means putting your commitment out there, for all of us to know and see, and hopefully to help drive.

...

We also have the chance, this session, to come together, forge consensus, and raise the minimum wage in Maryland.

To strengthen and grow our middle class...

This has been the North Star of everything we that we have done as an Administration. Our fiscal discipline. Our strategic investments. Our different way of governing for results.

...

But we, of course, are part of a larger national economy. And something is still very wrong.

We've lost sight of how our economy works, when it is working well.

Prosperity doesn't trickle down from the top.

It never has.

It's built from the middle out—and from the middle up.

...

In a properly functioning capitalist economy, a thriving middle class is not a consequence of growth and prosperity, it is the source of growth and prosperity.

When every worker earns more money, every business has more customers, and – by the way – every taxpayer is relieved from funding poverty programs for workers who are being paid poverty-level wages.

...

No person who works full-time and plays by the rules, should be forced to raise their family in poverty. Not in our state!

Should we be satisfied as a people, as a country, as a State, if our corporations are becoming ever more profitable, and yet so many of our people are unemployed?

Can we really say that our economy is working, if our stock market is booming, but middle class earnings are declining?

The economy we seek, in Maryland, is an economy with a human purpose.

Where the ranks of our middle class are growing, so our economy itself can grow.

And the only way we're going to grow our economy, is to grow our middle class.

...

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 is going to create more and better customers for Maryland businesses.

And that is why raising the minimum wage in Maryland, is not only good for the hundreds of thousands who will see a boost in their paychecks, it is good for every Marylander, because it is good for our economy.

It's time to raise the minimum wage.

The full text of the speech, as prepared for delivery, is available [here](#).

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Issues Statement in Response to Zandi Briefing on the State of Maryland's Economy](#)
[State of the State: Forward Together, Stronger Together](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Columbia Mall Shooting

January 25th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today released the following statement on the shooting at the Columbia Mall in Columbia, Md.:

"On behalf of the people of Maryland, I want to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims and all those affected by this senseless act of violence. Protecting the public's safety is our most solemn obligation."

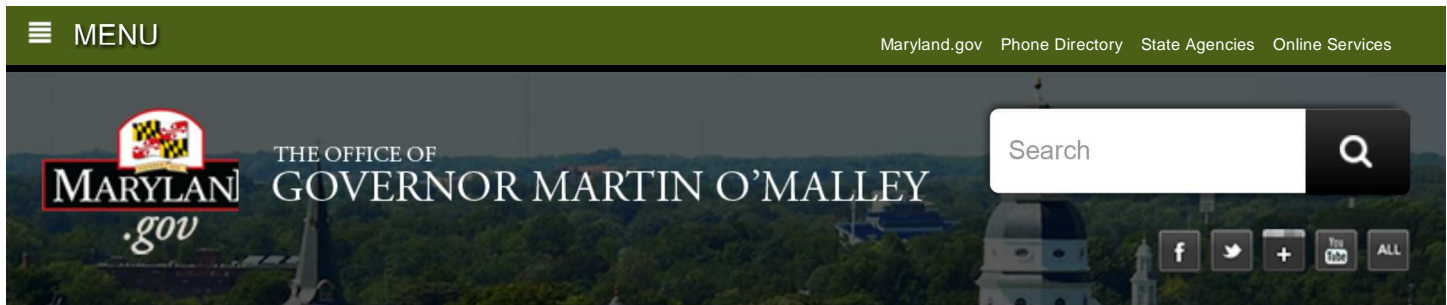
"We thank all of the first responders who are on the scene. I have been in close contact throughout the day with Col. Marcus Brown of the Maryland State Police — personnel from the State Police, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems responded immediately to support Howard County law enforcement officials. I've also spoken with County Executive Ken Ulman to offer any other support he needs, and to commend the quick work of the brave men and women of the Howard County Police and our first responders."

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [An Economy with a Human Purpose](#)
[Maryland Gained 7,300 Jobs in December 2013](#) »



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

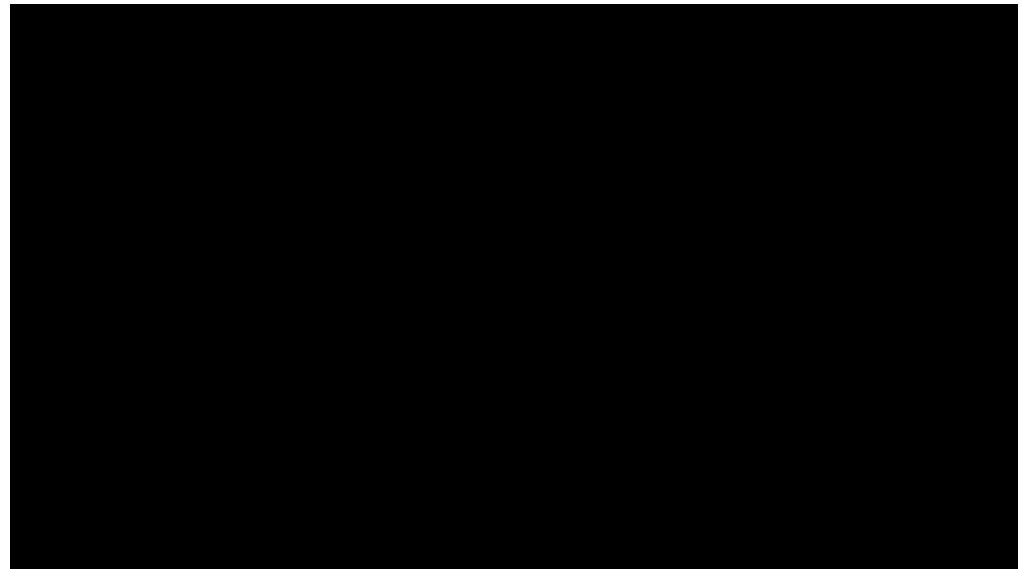
Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Maryland Gained 7,300 Jobs in December 2013

January 28th, 2014



BALTIMORE, MD – Governor O'Malley today announced another month of job growth in Maryland at Domino Sugar, an iconic Maryland business and the largest marketer of refined sugar in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary survey data, Maryland created 7,300 total jobs in December. Maryland's businesses created 7,000 jobs and the public sector gained 300 jobs.

"I'm pleased to announce this latest round of jobs gains on the grounds of the Domino Sugar refinery, an iconic symbol of American ingenuity lighting our harbor for almost 63 years. Maryland is now one of a handful of states to have recovered more than 100 percent of the jobs lost during the recession with over 34,000 jobs created in 2013. While we continue to make tremendous progress, there's still more work to be done. The North Star of the O'Malley-Brown Administration has always been strengthening and growing our middle class, building our economy from the middle out, creating quality, family-supporting jobs, and expanding more opportunities to hard working moms and dads across our great State," said Governor O'Malley.

"Working together to expand opportunity and spur new economic development opportunities, we are building a stronger, increasingly-diverse middle class," said Lt. Governor Brown. "By making smart decisions during the toughest economic climate since the Great Depression over the last seven years, we have made Maryland the best place

to live, work and raise a family.”

This report reflects a steady uptick in job creation rates with significant gains in both November and December of 2013. This December recorded the highest number of private sector jobs for the month since before 2003. In fact, the private sector added 34,100 jobs in 2013—a gain of 1.6 percent over the previous year.

Maryland’s unemployment rate has been driven down to 6.1 percent in December’s preliminary report, significantly below the national rate of 6.7 percent.

“Maryland’s economic recovery is why the O’Malley Administration continues funding job training programs that provide Marylanders with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce,” said Secretary Leonard Howie.

According to the data released today, the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services subsector gained 2,100 jobs and the Administrative and Support Services subsector added 500 jobs. The Leisure and Hospitality Sector saw the most private sector growth in December 2013, adding 2,900 jobs. The Accommodation and Food Services subsectors added 3,700 jobs.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

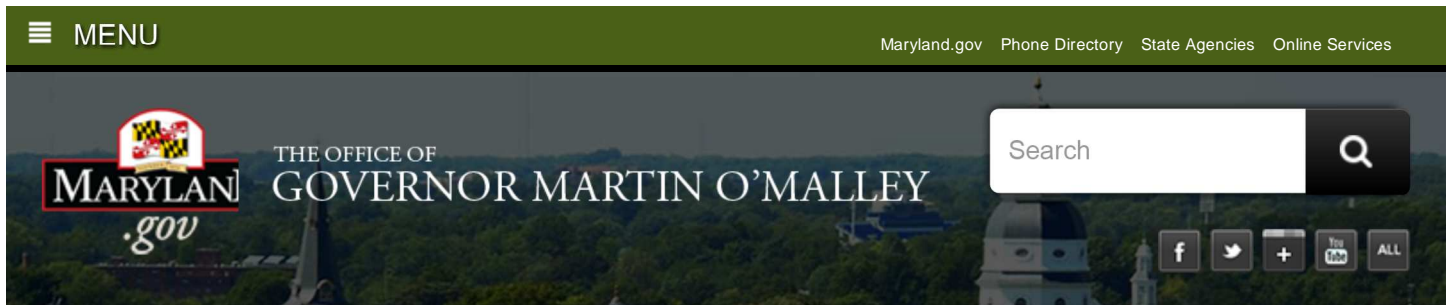
« [Governor O’Malley Issues Statement on Columbia Mall Shooting](#)
[Governor O’Malley Releases Statement on President Obama’s State of the Union Address](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Releases Statement on President Obama's State of the Union Address

January 28th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today released the following statement on President Obama's State of the Union address:

"President Obama's focus on strengthening and growing our middle class tonight was right-on. In Maryland, we share many of the President's priorities, including expanding opportunity, creating high-paid and high-skilled jobs, and lifting more people out of poverty by raising the minimum wage."

"The only way we will grow our economy is by growing our middle class. It's time for the Republican Congress to acknowledge this fundamental truth and work with the President to move our country forward."

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Gained 7,300 Jobs in December 2013](#)
[President Obama Visits Lanham](#) »



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Announces Return of Carnival Cruise Lines to Port of Baltimore

January 30th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the return of Carnival Cruise Lines to the Port of Baltimore. Following approval in September by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard of Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions, the popular cruise line will resume seven-day, year-round cruises onboard the Carnival *Pride* ship from the Port of Baltimore beginning in March 2015. The vessel will return to Maryland with new air emission reduction technologies and a host of new dining, bar, and entertainment options.

"We are pleased to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to Maryland and the Carnival *Pride* cruise ship back to the Port of Baltimore," said Governor O'Malley. "Our Administration, along with our Congressional Delegation, has a proven track record of advocating for a strong, healthy environment and fighting for high-quality jobs for Maryland families. I'm pleased Carnival and the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard have agreed on a plan that will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a greener Carnival *Pride* to return to this thriving cruise market."

According to the Maryland Port Administration, 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland, including 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore. Additionally, Maryland benefits from \$90 million in economic activity generated by cruise activities. The economic value to Maryland takes into consideration such factors as local spending, hotels, dining and entertainment.

Upon its return to Baltimore, the Carnival *Pride* will be equipped with exhaust gas-cleaning technology, known as scrubbers. Scrubbers are designed to reduce air emissions from cruise ships and other marine vessels. The scrubbers are in response to new international Emission Control Area (ECA) regulations which require cruise and cargo vessels to use an ultra-low, sulfur diesel fuel or install equipment, such as scrubbers, to clean the fuel exhaust before it is emitted into the air.

"Baltimore is a convenient mid-Atlantic embarkation point for 'Fun Ship' cruising, and we're pleased to resume these attractive year-round departures which offer our guests an opportunity to visit a variety of beautiful, tropical destinations," said Gerry Cahill, Carnival's president and CEO. "We would like to extend our thanks to officials from the Port and the state of Maryland for their outstanding support in our efforts to resume year-round cruising from Baltimore."

The Carnival *Pride* has been based in Baltimore since it initiated the Port of Baltimore's

year-round cruising schedule in 2009. It will remain at the Port through October 2014 and then head to Florida where it will be retrofitted with new emission reduction technologies as well as the new on-board features. The 2,124-passenger ship will reposition to Tampa next winter before returning to Baltimore for a March 29, 2015 cruise. Carnival *Pride's* itinerary from Baltimore will again offer the popular destinations of the Caribbean, Bahamas, and Central Florida.

"Whether we are talking about welcoming back Carnival Cruise lines, forging public-private partnerships or expanding cargo operations, the O'Malley-Brown Administration and the Congressional Delegation have ensured the Port of Baltimore has what it needs to attract business, create jobs and become one of our nation's greatest and most diverse seaports," said MPA Executive Director James J. White. "With today's news, we are further establishing ourselves as one of the top cruise ports in the U.S."

The Carnival *Pride* will also return to Maryland with new dining and entertainment venues such as:

- EA SPORTS Bar - a sports and video game lovers' paradise;
- Blue Iguana Tequila Bar - a fun and festive outdoor watering hole;
- WaterWorks - a water park highlighted by Green Thunder, the steepest and fastest water slide at sea;
- Guy's Burger Joint - a free venue developed by Food Network personality Guy Fieri; and
- Bonsai Sushi - a full-service sushi restaurant offering delicious Asian-inspired delicacies.

About the Port of Baltimore

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,630 direct jobs, while about 108,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3 billion in personal wages and salary and more than \$300 million in state and local taxes. About 2,000 ships visit the Port of Baltimore every year. Baltimore is the closest East Coast port to the U.S. Midwest. This geographic advantage allows Midwestern manufacturers significant cost and time savings when transporting their products to Baltimore rather than other East Coast ports.

About Cruise Maryland

The Port of Baltimore's cruise facility, with its unique location immediately off Interstate 95 and close to Interstate 70, has become a convenient drive-to cruise port for many residents throughout the Mid-Atlantic and into the Midwest. Last year more than 212,000 passengers sailed on 90 cruises from the Port of Baltimore. The Port of Baltimore ranks fifth for cruise passengers among East Coast cruise ports, 11th in the U.S. and 20th in the world. Since beginning a year-round cruise schedule in 2009, nearly every cruise that has sailed from the Port of Baltimore has left at full passenger capacity. The Cruise Maryland terminal is 2.5 miles from Baltimore's world famous Inner Harbor and 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. Maryland's median household income of \$70,004 is

the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of eight of the ten wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most affluent in the nation. For more information on Cruise Maryland, go to: www.cruise.maryland.gov or call [1-866-427-8963](tel:1-866-427-8963).

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

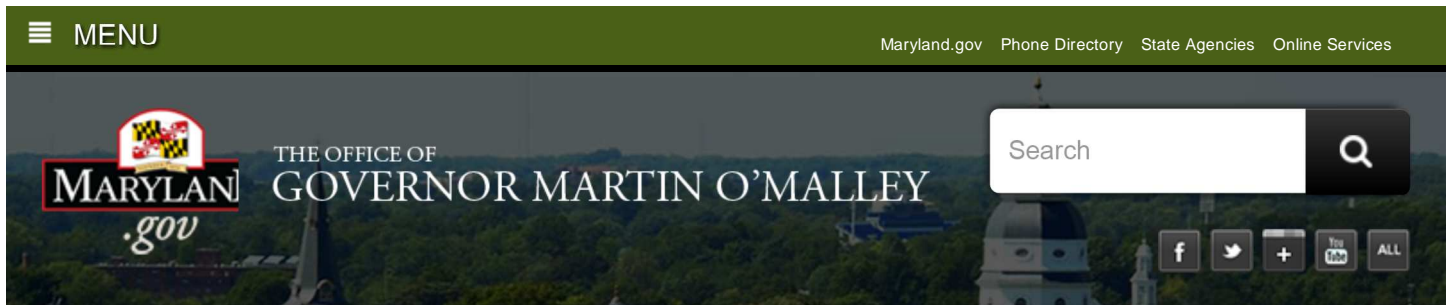
« [President Obama Visits Lanham](#)
[Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley Urges Marylanders to Continue to Conserve Energy](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley Urges Marylanders to Continue to Conserve Energy

January 30th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor O'Malley urged Marylanders to continue the efforts they have been making to conserve energy use as record breaking cold temperatures burdened Maryland's power grid. Energy use remains at very high levels even as the cold front moves out of Maryland and a warming trend is on the horizon.

"I want to thank the people and businesses of Maryland who embraced our call to conserve energy during this extreme cold weather. Together, our efforts has enabled our power grid to provide electricity to Maryland homes without incident, and helped temper extremely high energy prices that accompany great demand. I urge Marylanders to continue to conserve your energy use as much as possible," said Governor O'Malley.

The Governor also forewarned Marylanders to expect higher energy bills in the coming weeks and assured residents that his Administration is actively engaged with utility companies and regulators to ensure that Marylanders will have every opportunity to manage these costs.

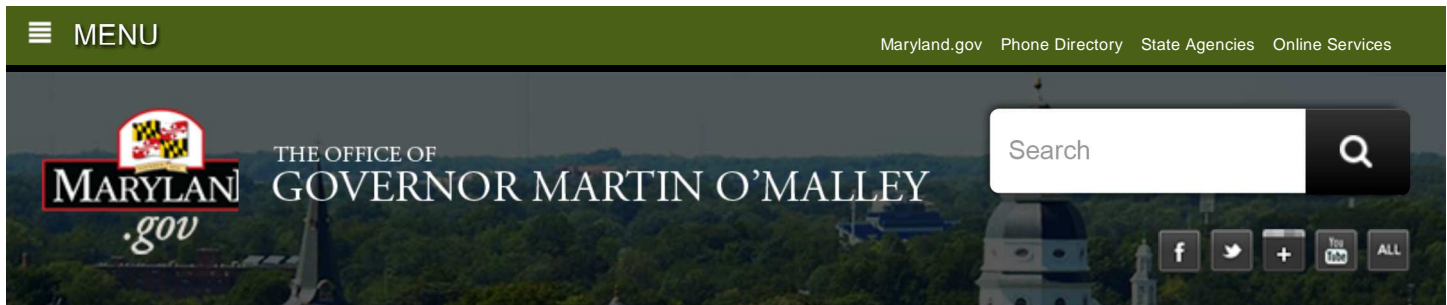
PJM Interconnection Inc., the organization that operates the electric power grid for all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia, including Maryland, issued a statement earlier this week stressing energy conservation habits. Tips to save energy included:

- Conserving electricity, if health permits, during the peak electric demand times of 6 a.m. to 10 a.m and again, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.,
- Set thermostats lower than usual, if health permits,
- Postpone using major electric appliances such as stoves, dishwashers and clothes; dryers until mid-day or after 9 p.m., when the demand for electricity decreases; and,
- Turn off electric lights and appliances that you do not need or are not using.

For more electricity saving tips, visit, <http://energy.maryland.gov/facts/est.html>.

Share this:





Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Provide a "Bridge" to Insurance Coverage

January 30th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS MD (January 30, 2014) – Governor Martin O'Malley today signed into law legislation that will allow Marylanders who attempted to use the Maryland Health Connection website to purchase health coverage, but were unable to enroll because of technical problems, to obtain temporary coverage in the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP).

The legislation, proposed by Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown earlier this month, is one of several steps the Administration has taken to help as many Marylanders as possible enroll in health coverage, and to help Marylanders adversely affected by the technological problems with the website. In addition to enactment of the MHIP emergency legislation, the Administration worked with the four private insurance carriers that offer plans on the exchange to offer retroactive coverage back to January 1 for individuals who had difficulties signing up through the website late last year. More than 1,300 households registered for the retroactive option.

"Our focus everyday is on getting as many Marylanders as possible enrolled in quality, affordable health coverage by March 31. We urged insurance carriers to make retroactive coverage available back to January 1, and more than 1,300 additional families are on the path to enrolling. And now, thanks to the quick action of the General Assembly, Marylanders who attempted to enroll in the exchange — and who, through no fault of their own, are without insurance — now have a bridge to care," said Governor O'Malley.

"Today we are taking action to help bridge-eligible Marylanders who need retroactive coverage," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "While we had some challenges in the initial launch, our exchange is open for business and I encourage Marylanders to visit the website or connect with one of the many navigators to sign up for quality affordable health care before the end of open enrollment on March 31st. I want to thank Chairmen Middleton and Hammen for working with us to establish this important safety net for Maryland families."

MHIP is Maryland's high risk insurance pool. Under the new law, MHIP coverage will be available for a temporary period of time to Marylanders who were eligible for coverage through Maryland Health Connection but attempted and were unable to enroll due to technical problems.

These "bridge eligible" individuals will also be provided assistance in purchasing coverage through Maryland Health Connection successfully. The Administration

anticipates that up to several hundred individuals may take advantage of this new option.

Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown, Maryland Health Connection officials and staff have worked diligently to fix problems with the website, and the user experience has substantially improved. As we continue to see steady enrollments through the website, the IT team continues to work to address remaining problems. Through January 25, 26,832 Marylanders have chosen to enroll in private health plans through Maryland Health Connection. In addition, 95,318 Marylanders signed up through the Primary Adult Care (PAC) program were automatically converted to Medicaid coverage effective on January 1, 2014, and now have full Medicaid coverage. As of January 28, an additional 42,302 individuals were newly enrolled in Medicaid effective January 1.

Open enrollment continues through March 31, 2014.

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

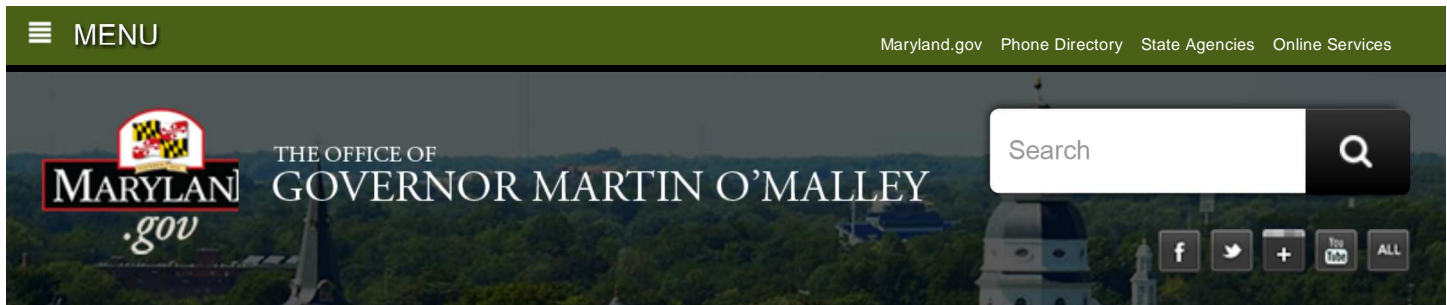
« [Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley Urges Marylanders to Continue to Conserve Energy](#)
[Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on the Passing of Dr. Roy H. Brown](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



Categories

Select Category

Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

Archives

Select Month

Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on the Passing of Dr. Roy H. Brown

January 31st, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor O'Malley issued the following statement today on the passing of Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown's father, Dr. Roy H. Brown:

"I want to express my deep sorrow and extend my family's sympathies to Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and his entire family on the passing of Dr. Roy H. Brown. Dr. Brown spent his life in medicine serving the most vulnerable members of his community — honoring their individual dignity with compassionate and professional care.

Our family, along with the people throughout Maryland offer our thoughts, prayers and support to Anthony and the Brown family during this difficult time."

Share this:



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Provide a "Bridge" to Insurance Coverage](#)

[Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Maryland Mayors Association Reception](#) »